

CD 2003--28



Thursdays at Noon
presents

Music and Poetry
Thursday, February 13, 2003
12:10 pm. Walter Hall

John Hawkins
(1944-)

no man,if men are gods... (poem by e.e.cummings)
(first performance)

Matthew Leigh, baritone
Sharon Lee and Elizabeth Loewen, violins
Marcin Swoboda, viola
Rafael Kuerti, cello
Antti Ohenoja, vibraphone

Prof. Eric Domville will introduce the works on today's programme.

Francis Poulenc
(1899-1957)

Tel jour telle nuit
Neuf Mélodies sur des Poèmes de Paul Éluard

Jacques Ibert
(1890-1962)

Quatre Chansons de Don Quichotte

Matthew Leigh, baritone
John Hawkins, piano

Biographies

Baritone **Matthew Leigh** began his musical training in his hometown of Pembroke, Ontario. After studying piano and voice for six years he entered the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto to study voice with Patricia Kern. During this period Matthew enjoyed performing recitals of Schumann, Schubert and new Canadian repertoire from composers John Beckwith, John Hawkins and Erik Ross. In 2000 he sang Vaughan Williams **Five Mystical Songs** for baritone and choir under the direction of Doreen Rao. Matthew also performed works by Britten, Poulenc and Ravel for the Music and Poetry series. Stage credits include Maximilian from Bernstein's **Candide**, and the Speaker from Mozart's **Die Zauberflöte**. Matthew is currently a student in the Opera Diploma programme at the University of Toronto, and sings with the Canadian Opera Company chorus.

Since 1994 pianist and composer **John Hawkins** has organized the Music and Poetry lecture/concert series which focuses on vocal music of the last hundred years. Guest lecturers have included scholars from other divisions of the University of Toronto and, occasionally, from other universities. So far, over 48 works by 24 different composers have been performed, including a number of pieces that Hawkins has written especially for the series. The short work on today's programme, **no man, if men are gods** (e.e.cummings), is the third completed song in a projected cycle of five settings for baritone, percussion and string quartet. Prof. Hawkins teaches orchestration, 20th-century music, and composition in the Theory and Composition Division of the Faculty of Music.

Eric Domville is a Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Toronto. He has a long-standing interest in the relationship of words and music, and contributes a history of song in the English language to a course on English Diction given by his wife, Professor Jean MacPhail, at the Royal Conservatory of Music. For the Canadian Opera Company he gives pre-performance talks. In the Continuing Education Division of St. Michael's College he offers courses on opera. For Spring 2003 he will present six evenings on the dramatic works of Hector Berlioz, to celebrate the composer's bicentenary.